

**Indo-British Coal Forum**

149. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched an Indo-British Coal Forum;

(b) if so, since when and the purpose behind launching this forum; and

(c) what are the other steps taken to expand Indo-British trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Understanding between Govt. of India and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was signed on 11th Jan., 1997 for launching an Indo-British Coal Forum. The broad objective of launching the coal forum is to broaden the scope of cooperation between coal related industries of the two countries through the creation of a productive partnership for peaceful purposes and for mutual benefit.

(c) It is Government's constant endeavour to improve trade relations with all countries including United Kingdom. Some of the steps in this direction include participation in international trade fairs, intensified exchange of business delegations, supply of necessary information and extending all possible facilities to the commercial organisations, increased focus on thrust items and the promotional activities of Indo-British Partnership.

**Foreign Equity in Joint Venture**

150. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have further relaxed the terms of foreign investments in respect of joint ventures in certain groups of industries and extended automatic approval in respect of food processing and electronic entertainment upto 51% foreign equity, with effect from January, 1997;

(b) if so, the precise economic reforms announced on new year eve, and

(c) the reactions and responses of industry thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The Govt. have recently vide Press Note No. 2 (1997 Series) dt. 17.1.97 expanded the list of industries for automatic approval for foreign equity investment. Sixteen more industries have been included in the Annex III for allowing automatic approval upto 51% foreign equity participation. Another list of nine industries have been issued wherein automatic approval upto 74% foreign equity participation is allowed. However electronic entertainment industry is not covered under the automatic approval scheme.

The Govt. have also vide Press Note No. 3 (1997 Series) dt. 17.1.97 issued a set up guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the foreign Investment Promotion Board.

**Trade with Latin American Countries**

151. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :  
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India's trade with Latin American countries has doubled in the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India has signed any trade agreement with Trinidad and Tobago recently;

(d) if so, the details of areas where this bilateral agreement has been signed; and

(e) and how far this agreement is likely to boost the trade with Latin American countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) India's bilateral trade with Latin American countries rose from Rs. 1159.04 Crore in 1991-92 to Rs. 3137.23 Crore in 1995-96, registering a growth of 170% within four years. The trade statistics of Indo-Latin American Trade for five years are as follows :

(Values in Rs. Crore)

Year	Exports	Imports	Bal.	of Trade	Total Trade
1991-92	304.41	854.63	(-)	550.22	1159.04
1992-93	479.44	915.84	(-)	436.40	1395.28
1993-94	757.58	1001.04	(-)	243.46	1758.62
1994-95	1125.48	2449.73	(-)	1324.25	3575.21
1995-96	1260.12	1877.11	(-)	616.99	3137.23

(c) to (e) A Trade Agreement between India and Trinidad and Tobago was signed on 24th January, 1997, during the visit of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago to India. The agreement signed was of a general nature and aims at providing the climate and policy support necessary for promoting trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

#### National Judicial Commission

152. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up a National Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, the main objective of setting up of such Judicial Commission;

(c) whether such Commissions are likely to be set up at the State level also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for the setting up of a National Judicial Commission.

(b) to (d) Do not arise

#### Master Plan for Public Sector Undertakings

153. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick Public Sector Undertakings in the country as on December 31, 1996 indicating the amount involved in them;

(b) the details of the master plan for reviving Public Sector Undertakings under the department of Heavy Industry; and

(c) by when the master plan is likely to be effective in reviving the Public Sector Undertakings ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The strategies formulated for the Public Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry include:

- (i) Permitting BHEL, which has potential to become a global giant, to access the investment fund out of the disinvestment proceeds, to enable it to offer internationally competitive financial and credit packages;
- (ii) Formation of Joint Ventures for one or more of their units in order to enhance the competitiveness and viability of the enterprises by infusion of technology, modern management techniques and marketing strength;

- (iii) Creation of a revolving fund from out of 10% of the disinvestment proceeds for infusion of funds in accordance with approved rehabilitation schemes to facilitate quick implementation of turn-around plans.

Revival & restructuring of Public Sector Enterprises in the context of what has been indicated above, is a continuous process.

#### Statement

As per information received from the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), as on 31.12.96, the Board had received 190 references from the Central and State sick Public Sector Undertakings out of which 145 (61 Central and 84 State PSUs) were registered by the Board. The amount involved in these Public Sector Undertakings is as under :

PSUs	Net worth (Rs. in crs.)	Accumulated losses (Rs. in crs.)
Central (61)	(-) 4165.51	(-) 3296.59
State (84)	(-) 1572.00	(-) 12095.45
145	(-) 5737.51	(-) 15392.04

#### Abid Hussain Committee

154. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY  
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN  
SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Abid Hussain Committee have submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(c) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government;

(d) the details of the recommendations which have not been accepted alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to safeguard the interests of Small Scale Industrial units ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The main recommendations of the Committee relate to the reservation policy for the small scale industries, raising the investment limit for SSI sector, mechanism for promotion of small scale industries, focus on clusters, restructuring financial support for SSI Sector, integrated support services, support for technology development in small scale enterprises, infrastructure development in clusters and institutional and legal innovation